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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 1, 1968

The Honorable Dean Rusk
 Secretary of State
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Foreign Relations asks that you provide certain information and material relating to the Pueblo incident. During your meeting with the Committee on January 26 a number of Senators asked that you provide certain specific information on the Pueblo affair. The following questions and requests for information confirm the earlier requests, elaborate on a few of them, and ask for additional information which individual members desire.

Would you please provide the Committee at the earliest possible time with the following information:

(1) A complete description of the development of the intelligence collection plan which included the use of the Pueblo and other vessels.

When was this plan approved?

Who participated in the decision?

Did the missions differ from area to area?

The name of the highest official in the United States Government who is aware of the day-to-day operations of such ships as the Pueblo.

How many United States vessels are now capable of this type of activity, including vessels such as the Maddox which acquired such a capability in short order?

State Department review completed

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(2) Why is it necessary to send a ship so close to the territorial waters of another state in order to collect intelligence information?

Specifically, what is the dividend in intelligence data from holding a ship at 13 nautical miles off a coast line as opposed to, say, 25 or 30 miles? More generally, could this information be collected by aircraft or satellite?

(3) What agency or agencies have operational responsibility for the Pueblo? Does the Navy determine the ship's track? Does the National Security Agency have overall responsibility for the Pueblo? What is C.I.A.'s role?

(4) Was the Pueblo the first such intelligence ship to go into waters off North Korea? If not, what were the dates and missions of its predecessors? What individual or individuals made the decision to send the Pueblo into waters off Korea? When was that decision made? Were you as Secretary of State, aware of the timing of the mission?

(5) The Committee would like to have copies of all operational instructions and mission concepts relating to the Pueblo. If any cable or other communication concerning the Pueblo contains reference to prior messages and instructions, the Committee wishes to have such messages. For example, the copy of a communication sent to the Pueblo provided by Assistant Secretary Macomber contains reference to four additional messages or instructions. The Committee wishes to have these as well.

(6) The press, and particularly certain magazines, have given purported verbatim texts of messages coming from the Pueblo during the hours of the harassment and attack. Presumably this information was received at Naval and other communication centers in the Japan-Korea area. The Committee would like to have all such messages on "intercepts."

(7) What is the nearest estimated nautical mile distance the ship was from North Korea, at any time, including the point of seizure? Give a complete description of the attack on the Pueblo.

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(3) Copies of radio communications of the North Korean Government prior to the attack relating to United States or South Korean harassments or attacks against North Korea.

(9) The text of any statements made by the North Korean representative to the Korean Armistice Commission concerning provocations by either the United States or South Korea. It is the Committee's understanding that on or about January 20 the North Korean representative warned the United States representative about such activities as the Pueblo's mission. Was that information made available to the Department of State? At what time?

(10) In his statement of January 26 before the United Nations, Ambassador Goldberg read the text of an "intercept" from a North Korean patrol craft. Please provide the Committee with the text of all such intercepts from North Korean vessels during the attack, during the few days before the attack, and for 48 hours after the attack.

(11) Full details of any South Korean infiltration or guerrilla activities against North Korea by land or sea during the two week period before the Pueblo incident. Administration information indicates there were some 500 "incidents" in 1967. How many of these were South Korean in origin?

(12) An explanation of why the Pueblo did not carry heavier weapons or was not provided with a military escort while off North Korean waters.

Full instructions relating to the conduct of the Pueblo's officers in the event of attack including instructions regarding the destruction of equipment or scuttling the vessel.

Full description of all intelligence equipment aboard the Pueblo and an estimate of how much was captured.

Full description of the skills, training and affiliation of all personnel aboard the Pueblo. For example, are the U.S. Navy ratings of most of the men a convenient way of including

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men working for another organization or agency? How many of the men have Korean language skills and/or served in Korea?

(13) A detailed chronology with time clearly specified as to when news of the harassment, and then the attack, reached American forces in Korea, in Japan, and in Hawaii. A similar chronology covering the receipt of information and the action taken by officials in Washington.

(14) What aircraft were available for possible response to the attack? What military commanders made the decision not to send available aircraft to the aid of the Pueblo? When were these decisions made? Who gave the order to divert the USS Enterprise? When was this decision made? Was this the decision of the Secretary of Defense or the President, or were they informed after the carrier had been diverted? Was the Pueblo flying the United States flag throughout its mission?

(15) When in our history was the last time an American vessel was boarded on the high seas in international waters; and the ship taken as a prize?

(16) What is the number and composition of foreign personnel in South Korea from countries other than the United States?

(17) Is our commander still referred to as the Commander of United Nations forces?

(18) Was the Pueblo being shadowed during this period by a Soviet surveillance ship? If so, would that vessel have information relating as to whether the Pueblo was outside North Korean territorial waters at all times?

(19) Does the Administration believe we have the men and the equipment to handle another ground war on the mainland of Asia without the use of tactical nuclear weapons? If so, on what do we base this estimate given the present deployment and commitment of our forces?

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(20) If we do not intend to use tactical nuclear weapons in any ground war in Korea, should we not start promptly to take steps to reduce our commitments in other parts of the world?

This letter is being circulated to all members of the Committee. There may be additional questions from Members of the Committee at a later time.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Fulbright
J. W. Fulbright
Chairman